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|  | United States<br>Department of<br>Agriculture<br><br>Forest Service | <b>NEWS<br/>RELEASE</b>  | <b>KLAMATH NATIONAL<br/>FOREST</b><br><br>1312 Fairlane Road,<br>Yreka, CA 96097 (530)<br>841-6131<br><a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath">www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</a> |  |
| Date: August 26, 2011   | <b>For Immediate Release</b>  | <a href="http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2512/">http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2512/</a><br><br>Contact: Fire Information<br>(530) 841-4517 |  |   |

## Onion Fire Update

**YREKA, CA**— Initial responders discovered a single lightning struck tree at the origin of the Onion fire, burning in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The fire, believed to have been started when lightning passed through the area earlier in the month, was spotted by the Eddy Gulch Lookout on August 22. Firefighters are positioned in the Wilderness and a small camp has been established.

Favorable conditions, including a significant spring snowpack, moderate summer weather, wetter fuels and the availability of fire fighting resources, along with natural features such as ridgelines, wet creeks and meadows, rocky alpine areas, trails and other recently burned fire areas allow for this fire to progress in reducing fuels and restoring healthier forest conditions in the area where it's burning. Fire crews have completed work to reinforce natural features and repair nearby fire line built for previous years' fires. The Onion Fire is now confined to an area south of Rush Creek, north of the ridge between Rush and McNeil Creeks, east of the confluence of Rush and McNeil Creeks and west of the major ridge between Rush Creek Lake and Packers Peak.

The positive benefits of fire playing its natural role in the ecosystem are many. Accumulated hazardous fuels will be reduced under moderate burning conditions and at a time when fire fighting resources are available to take any needed action. Fuels reduction will improve the safety of private property in the area, and will provide safer conditions for fire fighters to take action on future fire starts. General forest health, including wildlife habitat, will be improved by fire clearing away older, dead or diseased vegetation and fuels buildup to allow for new growth to occur.

A small, very light smoke column may be visible from Trinity Center and in the area of Coffee Creek. Smoke monitors are being set up near these communities to ensure that smoke impacts are low.

A full, active suppression plan is in place and crews are ready to extinguish the fire should conditions become unfavorable. Firefighters will work to continue to protect lives, property, and resources throughout the course of the Onion Fire.

**Location:** 15 air miles southeast of Cecilville, CA. **Estimated Fire Size:** 9 acres

**Jurisdiction:** USDA Forest Service, Salmon-Scott Ranger District, Klamath National Forest.

**Estimated Containment:** 16% **Estimated Containment Date:** 10/15/2011

**Cause:** Lightning **Injuries:** 0 **Resources:** **Total Personnel:** 50 **Evacuations:** None.

**Closures:** none at this time; hunters and Forest Users may see smoke or firefighters in the area of Lady Gulch Trail.

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